

**Celebrating 25 years of Helping to Make DX Happen**

# INDEXA



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## ***Palestine 2007—E4/OM2DX***      *by Stefan Horecky, OM3JW*

**B**ack in March 2007 my son Michal, OM2DX, came to me with the idea of going somewhere for a DXpedition. Not a bad idea, but to be honest I was pretty skeptical because finding an interesting country which is affordable and at the same time at least a bit rare is almost impossible. But I didn't want to disappoint him, so we started browsing through the DXCC list. The Pacific and South/North America were cancelled in the first and second rounds, respectively. There were a few interesting destinations in Africa but nothing that we thought would work for us. We didn't even think about Europe. So what was left? Asia—the continent with quite a few rare destinations. Even though a few local hams exist in those countries, many haven't been visited often by DXpeditions (A4, A7, A9, AP, ...). "What about Palestine?", asked Michal. "Forget about it", I replied. But he didn't.

Palestine is a historical land in the Middle East near the Mediterranean Sea fully enclosed in Israel and also known as the Holy Land. It's a sacred land for Jews, Chris-



**The E4/OM2DX team brought many an early "Christmas Present" by operating in Palestine from Bethlehem in early December, 2007. Pictured, left to right, are: Rudy (OM3PC), Stefan (OM3JW), Michal (OM2DX), and Miro (OM5RW).**

tians and Muslims and it became an independent territory in 1989. It consists of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with a combined area of 6600 square kilometers and 3 million inhabitants. The first elected leader and chief of Palestine National Authority was Yasser Arafat who was elected in 1996. After his death in 2004, Mahmoud Abbas was elected.

The last election was won by the Hamas movement which is listed by the EU as a terrorist organization. Together with Fatah, they rule the country. By the beginning of 2007, conflicts between the two movements had escalated into violent military conflicts.

Palestine itself has not yet been

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**inside...**

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## Palestine 2007—E4/OM2DX (con'd)

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approved as an independent country and is still holding the status of an independent territory. So how did this country become a DXCC entity? During the Yasser Arafat period, Arafat had to use an airplane, but his airplane didn't have any "national" identity signs because Palestine could not get a block of prefixes from ITU. On 1 February 1999, thanks to a strong Arabic lobby, Palestine received the prefix block E4A-E4Z from ITU, and from that moment Palestine became a new DXCC entity. Few resident hams got a license in 1999 and 2000. There weren't any problems for groups and individuals to operate from Palestine in those years. One of them was Zoli (HA1AG) who made a comment on Michal's website [www.om2dx.com](http://www.om2dx.com). He wrote, "What is so difficult about getting a license in Palestine? I went to a ministry in Gaza, and after two hours I left with the license in my hand without paying anything. And I even had a cup of tea with the minister. What has changed since then?" The main thing that has changed since then is the political situation and that is the main reason why nobody has received a license from 2000 until now.

The first step we took was to get some telephone numbers to the Ministry of Telecommunications in Gaza. Michal tried a few telephone numbers, but none of them were working. After more tries, he found out that the city code was changed and he started again. This time some of the numbers worked but nobody picked up the phone. Suddenly, after three months of calling a

magic moment came—somebody picked up the phone. "I was so surprised I forgot what I wanted to ask!" Michal exclaimed. To his surprise the person who answered the phone spoke English. When Michal asked this person if it was possible to get an amateur radio license, he asked where Michal was from. Since we are from Slovakia and it is considered to be a Palestine "friendly" country, he replied that it was possible to get a license. Thus, being a "Palestine friendly" country is the first condition to get a license. Then the person on the telephone said he had to wait for his boss who would be back in half an hour. Several hours and several telephone calls went by with no answer. When the phone was finally answered, Michal heard the magic sentence which you can hear everywhere in the Middle East, "no problem at all mister". Michal was told to download an application form from their website, fill it in, send it to the ministry, pay an administration fee about 70 USD, and wait. The website was not working and another phone call was made by Michal. The "Boss" was still in the office and a promised application was sent by email a few hours later. According to the email, we should apply for the license in Ramallah, which was safer than to apply in Gaza. We should pay the fee in Ramallah and from there it would be sent to Gaza to be signed and then it would be returned to Ramallah where we could pick up the license. As mentioned earlier, the friction between the two movements (Fatah in Ramallah and Hamas in Gaza) made it impossible to follow this planned proce-

sure. We decided to start over, this time arranging for all the paperwork to be completed only in Ramallah. In June 2007 Michal went for a business trip to Tel Aviv. Before going there he contacted David (OK1DTP) who worked for the Czech embassy in Ramallah in 2000. David provided precious information about people who might be able to help us in Palestine. One of them was Mrs. Lenka, a Czech-born woman, married to a Palestinian man, who worked for the Czech embassy in Ramallah. We kindly asked her to help us with the licensing and to check if the Palestinian authorities were working on issuing our license. After a few days, she gave us some unpleasant news. The officer who was in charge of Michal's license thought that Michal was just renewing his old license rather than applying for a new one. A new application form had to be completed with much more detailed information. The license fee was raised to 350USD, and again we began our wait. At the beginning of August

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an email arrived that the license was prepared and was ready to be signed by the Minister. Lenka sent her husband to the ministry to check when the license was to be signed and he returned with the license in his hand. She sent a copy of the license by fax to Michal, and in a few days the original copy arrived! Only when we arrived in Palestine in December did we find out that the minister and Lenka's husband were close friends. The first part of the DXpedition plan was successful.

The logistical plans for our DXpedition to Palestine now began in earnest. Our license was valid until 15 August 2008. The first idea was that Michal would go there alone on a "scouting" trip to check out the situation. Then it appeared that two people were needed to accomplish all the details. Miro (OM5RW) stepped forward as the one to accompany Michal. Then things got complicated. Michal had a series of back-to-back business trips which prevented the scouting trip. Then he had to prepare for his university exams. It soon looked like the earliest the DXpedition could be held was the end of January or the beginning of February 2008. Finally, we just put our heads together and decided that if we wanted to make this expedition happen it must be done between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2007. Miro agreed and soon convinced another member—Rudy (OM3PC)—to join us. Both had rich experience with expeditions to Mauritius and they promised to provide all the technical support needed. When we roughly weighed all the equipment desired we realized we needed the

baggage allowance of four people to transport our gear without a severe weight penalty. So we added one more member and that person was me! I didn't hesitate for a second when asked. Michal booked the flight tickets and arranged accommodations in one of the Bethlehem hotels before he left for another business trip to China. He returned from China two days before going to Palestine, but thanks to email and Skype, everything was ready. Miro and Rudo gathered all the essential equipment—beams, verticals for 30, 40, 80 and 160m, transceivers, power amplifiers, keyers, Dunestar filters, coaxial cables of many different lengths and many other things. One day before we were to depart the whole team gathered in Stupava and we started packing and weighting our luggage collection. It was simple math—20kg per person plus 5kg of hand luggage allowing us 100kg. Michal's suitcases and hand luggage were 30kg! Because of Michal's frequent flying, he was granted an exception to his luggage limits which saved the team 400 Euro for our outbound trip. We checked in the luggage at the Vienna Schwechat airport without any problems, and three and a half hours later we landed in the Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv. It was 4 P.M. We were welcomed by Michal's close friend Zolo from the Slovak embassy. Without his help our expedition would probably have ended before it begun. To get a license was not an easy task but to get to Palestine was even harder. Palestine (West Bank) is totally isolated and unreachable by sea, air and land. There wasn't any means of transportation to get to Palestine and it

is separated from Israel by a concrete wall. The only way is to get a cab at Ben Gurion airport and ask to be dropped off at the last check point, then cross the border on foot and get a different cab on the Palestinian side to drive you to Bethlehem. With our luggage and equipment it was impossible, of course, and so we asked Zolo to drive us there with his SUV. Thanks to the diplomatic license plates on Zolo's car we got to Bethlehem without any problems at the checkpoints. St. Joseph Home Hotel was to be our home for nine days. The city of Bethlehem is beautifully spread with a height variance of about 150m. Our hotel was situated almost on the top of a hill with three terraces, each on a different level. We couldn't imagine a better QTH than this one. We met Lenka right away since her apartment was about 100 meters from our hotel. She showed us the most important shops we'd need which were very close to the hotel and then we went to a restaurant to have a quick meal. Our goal was to be on the air as soon as possible. Our rooms were on the highest floor of the hotel and right above the rooms was the lowest terrace. Miro prepared the equipment and power amplifiers. Michal and Rudo prepared verticals for 40m and 80m in total darkness. We had two rooms, so we decided to set up one radio in each room. Our first contact as E4/OM2DX was made by Miro with Gitka (OM5MF) on 40m CW at 20:17 local time. When we turned on the power amplifier in Miro's room, the circuit breakers on our floor opened and we were in darkness. After that we were forced to have a one hour

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## Palestine 2007—E4/OM2DX (con'd)

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"technical break". Miro found out that he had to switch a phase line with the neutral in an extension cable. This problem occurred in only one of the rooms. This didn't seem that strange, but we had to do the same procedure again two days later. This was one of those situations that defied explanation. When we began operations again, we called CQ on 7003 kHz. No response to the first call as well as to the second CQ. On third CQ we made a contact. Right after that we appeared on the cluster, and what happened after that was indescribable. You need to experience it for yourself. The pileup was amazing and we continued simultaneously non-stop on 40m and 80m until the next morning. Right after sunrise Miro and Rudo completed installation of all the antennas we would use for the balance of our operation. Miro visited a local internet café every day to get online to coordinate propagation openings with difficult to reach parts of the world.

Weather in Bethlehem during the day was sunny—around 18 degrees Celsius. After the sun set, the rooms got colder and colder. Temperatures went down to 5 degrees Celsius (41 degrees Fahrenheit). It was off season so the hotel was not heated. The owner of the hotel gave us two electric space heaters but we were afraid to turn on one of them. The other one was placed in our room and made it somehow warmer there, but Miro's and Rudo's room was freezing. Non-stop operation continued and we added about 4000 contacts per day. Unfortunately, we were

experiencing the worst propagation conditions of the past few months but we couldn't do anything about it. We checked the 12m and 10m bands a few times per day but we made only 55 contacts on 12m. We also received many requests to operate RTTY. We paid attention to this mode for two days on 20m

and made more than 1000 QSOs. We got more and more tired. We slept only about 4 to 5 hours per day and our best friends were Red Bull and coffee.

During the DXpedition we went out to the streets only in groups of two to get some food or to visit the internet cafe to read the comments on our website and to upload the logs. We felt it would be a sin to be in Bethlehem and not to visit the famous historical places. So, one morning we did a little sightseeing of the place where 2008 years ago Jesus was born. You don't need to be religious to feel a little shivering sensation caused by being in those places. The whole of Bethlehem, which officially is Beit Lahm (house of bread), has 3000 inhabitants and it just breathes of history. Street vendors try to sell you everything related to the place.

Without realizing it, the end of the DXpedition was drawing near. On 21 December we started dismantling antennas as the bands they supported closed. On the



**Our hotel with our antenna on the roof. If you look carefully, just below our antenna you'll see the Star of Bethlehem which lit the sky at night.**

last night we operated only the lower bands and by sunrise we dismantled the last antennas. We stopped the operation exactly at 09:00 on 30 meters. We had logged 29450 contacts.

To get from Israel to Palestine was pretty easy but the thought of getting back to Israel worried us a lot. Once again thanks to Zolo who solved this problem by "smuggling" us back to Israel. Our flight from Tel Aviv was at 16:00 but because of the heavy security measures we had to be at the airport 3 hours before the departure. Zolo came at 10:00 and because we had enough time to spare, we visited part of Jerusalem—The Tomb of the prophet Samuel.

At the security check in Ben Gurion airport, boxes with power amplifiers appeared suspicious to the local authorities. "What is in those boxes?" questioned a security officer at

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## Palestine 2007—E4/OM2DX (con'd)

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the airport. "It is a power amplifier", Michal answered. "What is a power amplifier?" asked the technically-challenged security officer. "It is a type of amplifier", someone in our group replied. "And what is it good for?" he asked suspiciously. "... hmmm... for increasing the volume or signal of a radio station", we retorted. Satisfied with our answers, the security officer gave us the permission to check in our equipment. When we arrived at the Vienna Schwechat airport we were welcomed by a group of OE hams—Gun, OE3GCU, Werner OE1DWC and Guenter OE1GQA. It was a pleasant surprise. We arrived in our hometown, Stupava at 21:00. We loaded the equipment to Miro's car and the Palestine 2007 DXpedition was over but the memories will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

It has been very nice reading all the comments in the guestbook on our website which has been visited more than 200,000 times.

Your satisfaction is also our satisfaction. We sought to satisfy everybody, but we are sure we did not. We worked very hard trying to get every single station with a weak signal into the log instead of running pileups on some bands for close stations. The effort and enthusiasm of the operators continued to be high throughout the DXpedition. We don't think that we could have achieved any better results than we did under our operating conditions. Some of you wanted us to spend more time on digital modes, but one of our aims was to give this rare country to as many stations as possible. Some of the stations complained that we spent too much time on CW. It is true because 2/3 of the contacts we made were in this mode but it was also our aim. Also, CW proved to provide reliable contacts under the conditions. Even though Morse code testing is not required for getting a license in many countries, we found there seem to be many learning how to operate CW. As a proof, we

made a lot of contacts with stations with prefixes which were issued to operators with a license class that didn't need exams on telegraphy in the past. The biggest surprise of all is that for years we have been listening to how impolite European operators can be. I was really surprised when I could not copy a station and said "now XYZ station only", it was silent. When I said "now DX only", Europe was quiet—or almost quiet . . . those few stations who called were mostly from OM or OK because they thought that they can, that we belong to them. . . . HI!

Thanks belong to our sponsors. Clubs and associations include: **International DX Association**, Clipperton DX Club, Danish DX Group, European DX Foundation, German DX Foundation, Northern Illinois DX Association, Chiltern DX Club, Nippon DX Association, OK DX Foundation, and Spiderbeam. Many individuals also supported us and are recognized on our website. Last but not least, I would like to thank those who were part of this DXpedition: Michal (OM2DX) for arranging the license and for planning the expedition down to every single detail and Rudy (OM3PC) and Miro (OM5RW) for providing complete equipment and technical expertise. It was an honor to be a member of this fantastic team.

Since we are still in a DXpedition mood we have started to prepare another one. Where to? It's a surprise.

Written by Steve, OM3JW  
Translated by Michal, OM2DX



**Miro expresses his dissatisfaction at the inability of a small space heater to keep him warm on December evenings in Bethlehem.**

## Rwanda, Back on the Air—9X0R by Fabrizio Vedovelli, IN3ZNR

The seeds of the DXpedition to Rwanda were sown a long time ago, in mid 2006, when we returned home from our Western Sahara effort. Many emails went back and forth between me, Tony Gonzalez (EA5RM) and others talking about possibilities for our next trip. We chose to go to Rwanda. This particular DXCC entity attracted us for several reasons. The last big operation from there took place several years ago and it had moved up in rank to #45 on DX Magazine's "most wanted" list of DXCC entities. Moreover, after 14 years from the start of the terrible civil war there, the country was finally a quite peaceful place. For all these reasons, we believed Rwanda would be a wonderful adventure for our old "Desert Patrol" of Western Sahara. We were excited about the possibilities of our adventure, but the hardest obstacle was still in the middle of our road to success—yes, that little magic document called a "license". After a lot of faxes, emails, and useless phone calls in January, Tony decided to travel to Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. This decision was the key to our success! In fact, after a lot of meetings with the Rwandan officials and the collaboration of Peter Stabuch (9X5SP) and Colonel Diogene Mudenge (9X1AA) chief of RURA offices, EA5RM came back with the licenses for all of us, opening also the door for others. In the meantime, our group of amateur radio operators, with the help of RURA (Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency), would try to establish the Rwanda Amateur Radio Union (RARU) as National Amateur Society. Main RARU aims



**Team 9X0R brought us Rwanda during March, 2008. If they look tired, it is because keeping three stations on the air around the clock for 9 days eventually takes its toll!**

will be to promote Amateur Radio in Rwanda. For that reason, as part of our DXpedition, we planned on donating a transceiver to Kigali University as an aid to teaching and training new amateur radio operators and to help build a new amateur radio club. So, the good news from Rwanda coming to us in mid-January was that 9X0R was to become a reality. While Tony was still completing his efforts in Kigali, we decided to go there as soon as possible. In only two and a half months, we put together our team, prepared equipment, arranged accommodations and fulfilled the logistical needs for our twelve multinational operators.

The nucleus of the crew was to be the Western Sahara's veterans. We planned to have more CW operators for this DXpedition. We were aided in this decision by DXers everywhere. The survey of desired bands and modes completed by DXers using our

website showed that you wanted contacts using digital modes and CW, and you wanted to work us on Low Bands, too. The operator team consisted of: Tony (EA5RM), Javier (EA5KM), Bernard (F9IE), Javi (EC4DX), Gerard (EA3EXV), Manuel (EA7AJR), Dima (UY7CW), Robert (EA2RY), Manolo (EA4DRV), Ruben (EA5BZ), Gianfranco (I0ZY), and Fabrizio (IN3ZNR). Surprisingly, all these people were able to schedule themselves for a mid-March departure. With the offer of help from "SteppIR" antennas, we planned to set up at least three different shacks, possibly four. That became a reality when we finally arrived in Rwanda. We set up four operating positions: one each for CW, Phone, Digital, and the last one mixed modes. All four positions were furnished with 1 Kw amplifiers, because of the sponsorship by "SPE" of Rome, Italy. SPE loaned us the use of

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## Rwanda, Back on the Air—9X0R (con'd)

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three brand new “Expert” 1K-FA (fully automatic), all solid state amplifiers, the smallest kilowatt on the market. Moreover, we were happy to have the owner of the SPE factory Gianfranco, IOZY, as a member of the DXpedition.

Having Gianfranco along gave him an opportunity to see his product in hard use and it gave me the chance to occasionally speak with someone in my mother language, HI! Ninety percent of the operators were Spanish, so the “official” day-to-day language of crew was Spanish, while the Rwandan official language was incomprehensible to all of us. Another widely spoken language in Rwanda is French. Some people, specially the young people, understand some English. It can be very tiring to hear three different languages, then translate all in Spanish—all the while keeping a conversation going.

During February and early March, day by day our equipment list grew, and a mass of 300 kg of material was carried and stored in Madrid awaiting our departure date. Finally everything was ready to go. We all joined together the morning of 15 March in Brussels, Belgium. That same day, after an easy trip, the crew reached Kigali Airport in the late evening. The next day we had a long check out by Rwandan customs, and also a careful inspection of our transceivers by RURA (the FCC in Rwanda). By early afternoon everything cleared customs, and we were able to travel to the Akagera Lodge.

Our QTH was in the middle of



**Did we forget anything? This veteran team arriving at the door of the Akagera Lodge was confident they had considered every need.**

beautiful Akagera Game Park, near the Tanzanian border. Being a small state, to reach Akagera was only a two hours drive on very good roads. The Lodge was on top of a hill, with beautiful paths in all 360 degrees. A real dream location for hams! Moreover, our elevation was about 5600 feet above sea level, so luckily not a mosquito was seen. Before darkness fell, (as planned), we were already active with two stations on the air with one yagi and one vertical at full power.

After the first CQ, “9X0R, QRZ”, we were suddenly faced with immense pileups. It seemed as though the world was awaiting us! The pileups continued to be large for the first days. The number of callers were more than we ever imagined, suggesting Rwanda was higher than number 45 on

the list. Shift after shift we operate almost all night long on the first night, although we were very tired from the trip and the station installation duties. Early the second morning, all the crew not involved in their shift at radios, were working hard to finish the antenna set up. Two more yagis, the verticals (Biglr by SteppIr) and other verticals—inverted “L” for 80 and 160 meters were erected in one day and half. Weather was mostly overcast because we were at the beginning of the rainy season. So luckily the antennas job was not unusually hot, but we had a strong rain beat on us for an hour or two. After that rain, the equatorial sun at a high altitude was burning our skin.

With very good pass band filters

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## Rwanda, Back on the Air—9X0R (con'd)

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we were able to keep three (and very often four) bands on different modes on the air at the same time. After some troubles in the first days, we were able to upload our website with our log data. We used a very complete logging system which has been used by several recent DXpeditions. It is rich with interesting statistics for the DXer as “how many contact with” for mode, for countries, or CQ zone. Perhaps this kind of “classified result for DXers”, increases the pile-up for different modes or bands not even really needed for DXCC. Our goals were: to work many North American and Asian hams; to use CW and digital modes longer than phone; and to increase low bands contacts. For these reasons, we paid attention to the Americas whenever the propagation would help us. Moreover, we were on the air very often with two stations on CW, one in digital and only the last on phone. We reached our goals for the first two targets. For low bands, unfortunately, we discovered what many have come to call “Equatorial noise”. Almost all nights some stormy weather with thunder and lightning filled 80 meters and 160 meters with a lot of scratches and crackling. The third day we set up a “beverage” to USA and EU, and this helped our top band specialist pick more stations out of the noise. I guess we got a little too far into the rainy season. December and January would be the better months on the Equator for the Low Bands.

Accommodations and meals were good enough for the team, but we were always tired. Keeping three stations on the air 24 hours a day with only 12 opera-



The INDEXA banner was there, day and night, while the 9X0R team tried to give QSOs to the deserving.

tors is very hard work! There were very few guests in the Lodge, apart from monkeys! Yes, a group of “baboons” were always using the garden of the Lodge, as a playground. Our antennas were there, and one morning, two monkeys were jumping over our beverage playing with wires. I screamed a lot to scare the group but was not always successful.

Our target number of QSOs was at least 60,000. We did it, reaching 62,300. The last day and night we had a lot of power line failures. I believe that without these failures, our grand total of QSOs would have been at least 5,000 greater. Luckily this happened only at the end of operation. If it had happened in the first days, our morale and mood would not have been nearly as good. But the big pileups kept our energy high to serve the deserving.

When on the airplane on the road back home, we already began talking about our next steps. Stay tuned, a new DXpedition with the “Cuadrilla” is on the way! In the name of the 9X0R team I want to thank all the sponsors that helped us go to Rwanda, and particularly Gary Dixon and officers of INDEXA for their support.

See you in the next pile-up!  
*Fabrizio, IN3ZNR*



## **INDEXA Honors First YL Director – Nellie, XE1CI**

**by Judy Roush, AA7UC, INDEXA Past President**

In September, 2002, the International DX Association had an opening on the board of directors. One candidate stood-out above the rest—a YL whose resume includes mentoring, public service, longstanding support of INDEXA and, yes, an *extensive* history of DXing!

Nellie's interest in amateur radio began during the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City when she watched visiting athletes communicate with their families at home via the technology of our hobby. Anxious to operate and contribute to public service, Nellie earned an amateur radio license in 1970 and as XE1CI she eagerly sought ways to apply her new skills.

As a multi-lingual, liberal arts graduate of the prestigious Bryn Mawr College in Philadelphia, Nellie was in demand as a translator and was immediately hired by the Children's Hospital of Mexico where she brought her love of people and the hobby to severely ill and handicapped children. Each week, she and a group of local YLs transported afflicted children to their home stations for "radio therapy." These outings were not only instructional for the children; they were therapeutic and brought tears of joy to the eyes of the YLs as well as the patients. When hospital policy no longer allowed the children to leave the premises, Nellie found new ways to assist the suffering through amateur radio public service. As the first YL Director of the Mexican National Emergency Net, she facilitated and participated in emergency services and communications during major earthquakes in Managua, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. She was one of the first on the scene to work with the Red Cross during hurricanes and floods

and she also organized and recruited amateurs for the Roadrunner Operation, a group of volunteers who patrolled highways to assist distressed motorists by use of new FM repeaters.

Soon her interest in national projects exploded onto the international scene where most of us met her and logged her from entities too numerous to count. Pick a prefix at random and if she hasn't worked the world from there, she most certainly has operated in close proximity to there. Until her health began to fail, she *a/ways* looked forward to her next DXpedition!

During her DX travels, Nellie has made innumerable friends around the world and she has earned many awards, certificates, and accolades including the most-coveted DXCC Honor Roll Award.

But it was more than Nellie's DX experience that attracted the search committee. Nellie is a woman of vision—a YL with high hopes and expectations for herself, the human race, the hobby of amateur radio, and *INDEXA*! In 2007, the directors were invited to submit their visions for the future of INDEXA. Nellie's suggestions were philosophical as well as practical. Philosophically, she stressed the importance of respecting and valuing the accomplishments of the past while acknowledging the need to "keep moving {ahead} with each new day, situation, and circumstance." Her practical suggestions included adjusting the cost of membership and reducing postage costs by eliminating the paper newsletter. These suggestions were recently implemented and are now part of standard operating procedure.

Nellie's health recently began to deteriorate further so with a heavy

heart she resigned from the board of directors. In her resignation letter she states, "It has been an honor and a great privilege to belong to the INDEXA directors . . . Words can never express what a pleasure it has been for me to belong to such a wonderful organization and have such great friends. Thanks again for your confidence in me . . . My very best to you all with 73 and 88."

As a former president of INDEXA, I am honored to pay tribute to Nellie's professional contributions; however, I would be remiss if I did not share with you a few of my personal observations and feelings.

Nellie deeply loves her family and daughters: XE1TX, XE1YW, and XE1XYV. She also cares deeply for her puppies, Moni and Tutsi and those of you have known Nellie for many years remember her beloved "CQ." CQ passed away not long ago and Nellie continues to miss him greatly.

Nellie's feelings also run deep for her many friends throughout the world and she takes great joy in doing for others. One of INDEXA's members recounts the baptismal gown that Nellie, a deeply religious woman, bestowed upon his daughter when she was born. In honor and respect, the new parents named their newborn, "Nellie."

Nellie Saltiel de Lazard has done no less for me. On frigid winter nights in the White Mountains of Arizona, I bundle-up in toasty warm socks and afghans lovingly stitched by Nellie's hands. I prepare exotic dishes from a Mayan cookbook and our living room is adorned with an heirloom Aztec calendar, a Huicholi beaded basket, and so many more treasures.

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## INDEXA Honors First YL Director – Nellie, XE1CI

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Nellie's generosity is boundless but most of all I treasure the support and love she gave to me and my husband, N7SQU, during his lengthy bout with cancer. Not a week passed that she didn't call from Mexico City to remind us that she was with us in spirit and prayer. When Ken finally succumbed to the ravages of the disease, she was figuratively "at my side" to provide solace, comfort, and inspiration because she knew firsthand the overwhelming pain death brings. Many years ago, she lost her own husband; yet, in spite of her grief and uncertainty about the future, she mustered her courage and cultivated the skills to carry-on the work of her husband. She learned to manage a building, a curtain business, and two textile mills. Quite a feat for a widow raising three young daughters!

Nellie, Ken, and I always looked forward to a visit in which we would enjoy many hours of philosophical and theological discussion. A great tragedy is that the twists and turns of earthly life have prohibited the

fulfillment of this plan. Soon after my husband died, Nellie was diagnosed with her own cancer. This is the bad news. The good news is that she faces her latest challenge with the same courage with which she faces all obstacles and challenges: with faith, hope, and certainty that a better future lies ahead! And, the faith we both share assures us we *will* meet in the future to enjoy the "fruits of the vine" as we pursue the discussions we have only postponed till a later

date!

INDEXA's membership exercised wise judgment by electing Nellie to be a director and spokesperson. She brought a wealth of administrative and DX experience to the position and she leaves worthy examples for all YLs and OMs to emulate. Personally, I hope Nellie's legacy will be her love for all creation and her overwhelming desire that amateur radio will one day bring unification to a world so sorely divided!



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